

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**INTEGRATING ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE  
FOR URBAN REVITALIZATION**

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## ABSTRACTS

The heritage awareness heightened in built heritage development in the millennium age and the research acts as personal reaction towards the issue. The design intent of this study is to unfold the treasure shop houses heritage in relation to the urban revitalization in the historical city of Taiping, Perak, Malaysia. The focus was on the shop houses which were found as the most in danger built heritage from demolition, deterioration and development pressure.

The scope of study included three main research questions. Firstly, the research drive was to find the row shop houses and road for establishment of heritage area. Secondly, was to integrate architectural heritage as the antique existing treasure for urban revitalization. Thirdly, was to find the suitable design guidelines for the property conservation and revitalization. The methodology involved two main research activities: obtrusive methods and unobtrusive methods. Personal interview and survey research with focus group and public were the obtrusive methods. The unobtrusive method involved two activities: content analysis and direct observation. The research found the heritage vision weaknesses on the definition, strategies, internal support, knowledge, awareness and perception amongst the society. Individual heritage definitions and fast profit interests in the role players found as more dominant than the social benefits.

The heritage management that covers technical expertise knowledge and application in heritage tourism were new ideas in Malaysia. Therefore, a guide for heritage conservation is an approach to establish the heritage area in regenerating the historical city. In the dynamic building industry, it is the role of designers to re-interpret the conservation of the past heritage while constructing for present and future heritage for more idealistic tools towards sustainable and quality urban environment.

## Candidate's Declaration

I declare that the work in this thesis was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the result of my own work, unless otherwise indicate or acknowledged as referenced work. This topic has not been submitted to any other academic institution or non-academic institution for any other degree or qualification.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

Today's urban development is mainly cultured by economic force (Law, 2002). The globalization of world brings in pressure that influences local building industry to respond to the international architecture style in designing the city. Buildings with this style usually have the "simplicity" feature with external glazed curtain walling system and reinforced concrete roofing. The glass curtain walls reflect heat on sunny day lighting and fail to drain off heavy rain water from the flat roofing system.

The international style may meet temperate climatic and social factors but is not responsive to the tropical climate and Asian way of life. However, for the sake of responding to the new latest global trend, the climatic factors were not the main driver for the development criteria. As a result, the city image of tropical country in different locations appeared very similar as other building design in the temperate climatic country design. This creates city image with similar appearance and hence creates "anywhere ville" (Ibid, 2002).

The situation is made worse by franchising business that "rubber stamping" the original business from the origin country to other strategic cities in all over parts of the world. For instance, the creation of homogeneous global cultures spread through market forces such as "McDonaldization" which is accompanied by opposing forces of differentiation, hybridization or outright resistance in France and protest at December 1999 World Trade Organization in Seattle (Torre, 1999). The phenomenon has evolved in proportion to time and has developed a prototype building re-production.